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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 07591 191108Z

21
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 AID-05 /018 W
---------- 097135
R 191011Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1124

UNCLAS TUNIS 7591

PASS CUSTOMS FOR ACREE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, OVIP, TS
SUBJECT: CIP VISIT TO U.S. OF TUNISIAN CUSTOMS CHIEF

REF: STATE 153830; TUNIS 5491

1. AMB HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM RECENTLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS ALI AZZOUZ ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPLE THE INVITATION FROM COMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS ACREE FOR VIP VISIT TO U.S. WHICH WAS EXTENDED TO PREVIOUS CUSTOMS CHIEF SALAH M'BARKA (TUNIS 5491). LETTER THANKS ACREE FOR INVITATION IN NAME OF BOTH M'BARKA AND AZZOUZ AND LEAVES UNSTATED THE ASSUMPTION THAT OFFER IS TO CUSTOMS SERVICE CHIEF REGARDLESS OF IDENTITY. AZZOUZ FURTHER STATES THAT HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT DOES NOT PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE TUNISIA AT THIS TIME BUT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO TRIP AT FUTURE DATE. HE INTENDS TO LET US KNOW WHEN HE MIGHT MAKE THE VISIT WITH SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME TO ENABLE COMMISSIONER ACREE TO DECIDE WHETHER THE TIMING IS APPROPRIATE.

2. AZZOUZ IS A CUSTOMS OFFICER BY TRAINING (NATIONAL CUSTOMS SCHOOL OF PARIS, 1958) ALTHOUGH FROM 1963 UNTIL HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS HE SERVED IN THE COMMERCIAL DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY. EMBASSY BELIEVES VIP VISIT BY HIM WOULD BE USEFUL. IN FACT, EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY TRIED IN VAIN TO ARRANGE TRAVEL IN U.S. FOR AZZOUZ DURING HIS
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TENURE AT MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, BELIEVING HIM

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PROMISING OFFICIAL TO BE CULTIVATED IN USG INTEREST. IF
AND WHEN HE PROPOSES VISIT DATES, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN SUGGESTING PROGRAM OF CONTACTS FOR HIM ADDITIONAL TO
CUSTOMS SERVICE VISIT SCHEDULE.

3. WE PROPOSE TO REPLY TO AZZOUZ' LETTER EXPRESSING
PLEASURE AT HIS ACCEPTANCE AND LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING
WHEN HE MIGHT FEEL ABLE TO TAKE THE TIME FOR THE
VISIT. IF COMMISSIONER ACREE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS
COURSE OF ACTION, PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY BE TELEGRAM.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, INVITATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS07591
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-0831
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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